

Attorney's Docket No.: 07314/007001

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 31-36, 38-39, 61-66, 68-69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,742,343 to Haskell in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0028725 to Nakagawa.

Claims 7, 10-14, 37, 40-44, 67, 70-74 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2-14, 32-44, 62-74 have been amended. Claims 7, 10-14, 37, 40-44, 67, 70-74 are patentable because these claims have been rewritten to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims to obviate the objections.

Claims 1, 15-31, 45-61, 75-90 are hereby cancelled, with Claims 1, 31, 61 being cancelled to obviate the rejections with respect to the cited references.

Claims 2-6, 8-9, 32-36, 38-39, 62-66, 68-69 are also patentable because they have been amended to depend upon allowable base claims (base Claim 7 for Claims 2-6, 8-9; base

Attorney's Docket No.: 07314/007001

Claim 31 for Claims 32-36, 38-39; base Claim 67 for Claims 62-66, 68-69).

The rejection or objection to each claim detailed in the office action has been fully addressed.

Conclusion

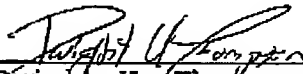
In view of the amendments and remarks herein, the Applicant believes that Claims 2-14, 32-44, 62-74 are in condition for allowance and asks that these pending claims be allowed. The foregoing comments made with respect to the positions taken by the Examiner are not to be construed as acquiescence with other positions of the Examiner that have not been explicitly contested. Accordingly, Applicant's arguments for patentability of a claim should not be construed as implying that there are not other valid reasons for patentability of that claim or other claims.

Attorney's Docket No.: 07314/007001

Please apply \$1800 for the excess claim fees and \$1020.00
for the Petition for Extension of Time fee of three months.
Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit
account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 01/12/05


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